

# Te Araroa Ready

## 2-Day Backcountry Skills Intensive

Prepare for the realities of long-distance tramping in Aotearoa with this practical two-day course designed for Te Araroa walkers and anyone planning multi-day backcountry adventures.

Spend time building real-world navigation, river awareness, and trip planning skills in the Peel Forest environment. This course focuses on judgement, preparation, and confidence; helping you make safer decisions when conditions change and the trail gets challenging.

Whether you're walking sections of Te Araroa or preparing for extended trips, this intensive course combines essential skills into one focused learning experience.

## Who this course is for

This course is ideal for:

1. People preparing for Te Araroa (NOBO or SOBO)
2. Section hikers planning multi-day backcountry trips
3. Trampers wanting stronger navigation and river awareness
4. Anyone wanting to feel more confident travelling independently in the outdoors

Suitable for adults and older teens (16+).

## What you'll learn

### Navigation & Route Planning

- Reading Topo50 maps and understanding terrain features
- Route selection and travel planning for multi-day journeys
- Bearings, navigation strategies and decision-making in changing conditions
- Using GPS and smartphone tools alongside traditional navigation

### River Awareness & Decision Skills

- Recognising river hazards and assessing conditions
- Decision-making frameworks — when to cross, when to wait, and alternative options
- Understanding how weather and terrain influence river risk

### Backcountry Systems & Preparation

- Packing for multi-day travel — what matters and what doesn't
- Trip intentions and emergency communication
- Weather interpretation for long-distance journeys
- Developing personal systems for safer travel

## What to expect

This is a hands-on, field-based course combining practical skill sessions with real-world scenarios. Over two days you'll build experience navigating, planning routes, and thinking through decisions commonly faced on Te Araroa and other long-distance tracks.

Our focus is not just on techniques, but on helping you develop confidence and judgement in dynamic environments.

## Course details

**Location:**

Peel Forest Outdoors Centre, approximately 20 minutes from Geraldine.

**Duration:**

2 days

**Time:**

Day 1: 9:00am – late afternoon

Day 2: 9:00am – approximately 4:00pm

**Accommodation Provided:**

Off-grid cabin accommodation is available onsite, for participants wanting to stay overnight between course days. This is included in your course registration fee. These insulated bunk-style huts offer a simple DOC-hut style experience with solar shower and composting toilets.

**Food:**

Participants provide their own food. Please bring meals, snacks and water for both days.

## Gear list

### Compulsory Gear:

- Overnight pack (approx. 40–60L) with pack liner
- Suitable active clothing for the weather (no cotton)
- Waterproof raincoat and over-trousers
- Thermal layers
- Fleece or insulation layer
- Tramping boots (worn in)
- Water bottle (minimum 2L)
- Compass
- Hat, beanie, sunscreen and sunglasses

### Overnight Gear

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow (optional)
- Toiletries
- Food for two days

### Gear hire available

Let us know if you need to borrow:

- Pack
- Raincoat
- Fleece layers
- Compass

### Optional

- Tramping poles
- Puffer jacket

## Why learn with Peel Forest Outdoors?

Our instructors bring real-world outdoor experience and a strong focus on learning through doing. Small group sizes allow time for personalised coaching and meaningful practice in real environments.

Te Araroa is as much about decision-making as it is about distance; this course is designed to help you step onto the trail feeling prepared, capable, and confident.